

Remarks

Claims 1-21 were previously pending, of which claims 1-14 have been canceled, and new claims 22-26 have been added; therefore, claims 15-26 are currently pending. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the new claims. Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 15 and 16. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the currently pending claims in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 17, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,389,028 to Bondarenko et al. (hereinafter "Bondarenko") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2003/0108187 to Brown et al. (hereinafter "Brown"). Claims 8, 14, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bondarenko in view of Brown as applied above to claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 17, and 18, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,498,845 to Martz et al. (hereinafter "Martz"). Claims 4, 11, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bondarenko in view of Brown as applied above to claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 17, and 18 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,493,695 to Pickering et al. (hereinafter "Pickering").

In response, Applicants have canceled claims 1-14, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot. Further, Applicants have amended claims 17 and 18 to depend from independent claim 15, which has been allowed; therefore, those claims are also deemed to be in condition for allowance. In addition, Applicants have amended independent claim 19 to include limitations similar to those of independent claim 19; therefore, claim 19 is now allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 15 was deemed allowable. Claims 20 and 21 depend from and further limit claim 19 and are therefore also deemed to be in condition for allowance.

New Claims

New claims 22-26 depend from and further limit independent claim 15, which has been allowed; therefore, those claims are also deemed to be in condition for allowance.

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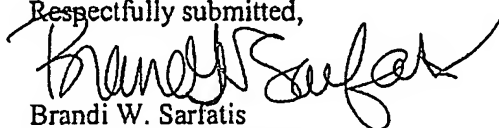
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is apparent that independent claims 15 and 19 are in condition for allowance. Claims 16-18 and 20-26 depend from and further limit claims 15 and 19 and are therefore also deemed to be in condition for allowance. An early formal notice of allowance of claims 15-26 is requested.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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